

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

Our Regular Correspondent Writes From the National Capitol.

Those who have been looking for a fresh sensation can rest quite satisfied. They have it in the proposition that the president has advanced to cut off all election contributions and have the legitimate election expenses of all parties paid by the national government. This might raise a wail from the anti-paternalists, for it would be paternalism of a sort, in fact, of a most pronounced sort. But it would be fair to all parties and it ought to result in freeing elections from the taint and suspicion of money illegitimately used. The plan has not yet been put forth officially, but it has been talked over at the White House and the president is understood to be decidedly in favor of it. So far as the details have been worked out, it is that the several parties should be apportioned funds for legitimate election expenses in proportion to the vote that they polled at the last preceding similar election. This would keep the government disbursement from being all in the hands of the two big parties. The funds would be as carefully audited as any of the other disbursements of the government, and not only would the people know where each dollar of the money had gone, but they would see to it that election expenses were kept down within something like reasonable limits. It would settle the question of corporate campaign contributions, would relieve the corporations from being "held up" by enterprising campaign solicitors, and would assure all candidates of sufficient funds to meet their legitimate outlay.

It is just the sort of an unpleasant proposal for the president to make, one that the machine politicians on neither side will relish, and yet one that nobody could honestly and reasonably oppose. It would make the election cease to depend on the size of the "bar," and would throw hosts of ward heelers out of a job. It will be delightful, if the suggestion is submitted to congress, to see the number of

ways in which the professional politicians will try to get out of fairly facing the issue. It is almost sensation enough for one week, and will give a number of "statesmen" something to think about between now and the next session of congress.

Dr. L. O. Howard, known all over the United States as "the mosquito man" of the department of agriculture, has sailed for Europe on a rather curious mission. He is going to bring back a large assortment of small insects which are parasites of the gypsy moth that for years past has been spreading over Eastern Massachusetts and seriously threatens the shade trees and shrubbery of much of the state. The history of the gypsy moth and its near relative, the brown-tailed moth, is rather romantic. They were accidentally let loose in Massachusetts by a scientist who had some live ones in his collection. They are very destructive to shade trees and shrubbery of all sorts, but fortunately they are a slow-spreading insect and though it is years since they were first turned loose, they have spread over only about a quarter of the state. Various methods have been tried of exterminating them, but none have been successful in more than temporarily checking them, and the state of Massachusetts has spent over \$1,000,000 already in fighting the pest.

It happened a year ago in Southern Russia that Dr. Howard found a number of insect parasites that preyed on the two moths and kept them in check in the regions of which they are natives. He sent some of the parasites home, and the experiments with them were so successful that he has gone abroad again, this time largely assisted by funds from Massachusetts, and expects to send home some hundred thousand of the moth-killing insects. These will be released in the moth-ridden area, and it is believed will do more toward checking the pest than anything that has yet been tried. It is expected that forestry will be benefited in the future by the known fact that "fleas have other fleas to bite them, and so it is ad infinitum."

The state department received this week another \$50,000 in aid of the Chinese famine fund. This has been forwarded to the missionary relief committees in China from whom a report has just been received showing the progress of the work up to date. There has been over \$200,000 contributed by this country since the call for

funds by the president, and the missionary committees state that they have now on their register 400,000 famine sufferers who are being fed from the funds, and all of whom, it is believed, can be kept alive till the next harvest, which promises to be reasonably good.

This week saw the end of the contest for the presidency of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who are meeting in Washington. Mrs. Donald McLean, the present president general, was reelected by an overwhelming majority. The Daughters are building a magnificent hall for themselves in Washington. It is almost finished and has been partially dedicated. It will cost about \$250,000, though not a remarkably large building, and will act not only as a national meeting place, but as a hall of records for the society.

This has been a convention week for Washington. One of the other important meetings that is being held here is that of the American Society of International Law. This association is just a year old, has for its president Secretary of State Root, and numbers among its members many of the foremost lawyers of the United States. One of the objects of the society is to reduce the code of international law, which at present is in a rather hazy state, to something like regular and generally accepted form. There are a number of questions touching neutrality in time of war, the rights of blockade and property rights on the high seas, which the association will express its views upon and will forward to the Hague to be considered by the coming peace conference.

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Lazy Wife
Large Lima
Pole Lima

PEAS
Little Gem
Champion of
England
American Wonder

MELONS

WATER MELONS
Sweet Heart
Ice Cream
Gypsy
Cuban Queen
Georgia Rattlesnake

MUSK MELON
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